

Federal levels, have embraced this opportunity. These efforts perpetuate a legacy to be embraced by not only the people of Hawaii, but a legacy to be shared with people across this Nation. I am confident that these measures which I sponsored will enable continued good work and progress in promoting and protecting the natural and cultural resources of my home State.

The Kalaupapa Memorial Act would authorize a memorial to be established at Kalaupapa National Historical Park in Hawaii. This long overdue memorial will honor and perpetuate the memory of those Hansen's disease patients who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa community, which is located on a remote peninsula on the Island of Molokai.

For over 100 years, from 1866 to 1969, Kalaupapa was a colony on the Hawaiian island of Molokai where patients with Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy, were forced to live. These individuals were directed to live there by the Hawaiian and, later, the American Governments in the belief that leprosy was rampantly contagious and that isolation was the only effective means of controlling the disease. In 1865, acting on the counsel of his American and European advisers, Lot Kamehameha, the Hawaiian King, signed into law "An Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy," which criminalized the disease. In the ensuing 103 years, men, women, and children of all ages—including those who were mistakenly believed to have leprosy—were captured and forcibly exiled to the brutal northern coast of Molokai, chosen due to its isolated and inaccessible location.

Ultimately, more than 8,000 people were sent to Kalaupapa, of which only about 1,300 graves have been identified. Most of those patients who were sent to Kalaupapa before 1900 have no marked graves. Others were buried in places marked with a cross or a bare tombstone, but those markers have seen great deterioration over time. As a result, there are many family members and descendants of these residents who cannot find the graves of their loved ones and are unable to properly honor and pay tribute to them.

This measure would authorize a nonprofit organization consisting of Kalaupapa residents and their families and friends, and known as "Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa," to establish a memorial at a suitable location in the park to honor the memory of the 8,000 residents who lived at the Kalaupapa and Kalawao communities. This monument will provide closure and a sense of belonging to these many family members, who have no knowledge of their ancestors' whereabouts. Through this monument, the Hansen's disease patients will forever be memorialized as having been a part of the history of Kalaupapa.

The Na Hoa Pili O Kaloko-Honokohau Advisory Commission Act would reauthorize the Advisory Commission for Kaloko-Honokohau Na-

tional Historical Park through 2018. Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, located on the western coast of the Island of Hawaii, was established in 1978 to provide for the preservation, interpretation, and perpetuation of traditional Native Hawaiian activities and culture; to demonstrate historic land use patterns; and to provide for the education, enjoyment, and appreciation of traditional Native Hawaiian activities and culture. This Advisory Commission advises the National Park Service on historical, archaeological, cultural, and interpretive programs for the park and serves as a living resource for the education, enjoyment, and understanding of traditional Hawaiian culture and activities. This legislation would extend the Advisory Commission through the end of 2018.

The Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963 Amendments Act seeks to authorize \$500,000 in funds for fiscal years 2008 through 2017 to the National Tropical Botanical Gardens. The measure will authorize appropriations to the corporation governing the Botanical Gardens for operation and maintenance expenses. These funds will contribute towards the private donations that the Botanical Gardens already raises to support its annual operating budget of over \$10 million.

The National Tropical Botanical Gardens is a private charitable corporation, chartered by legislation that was enacted in 1964 to foster horticultural research, education, and plant preservation. Its congressional charter mandates the Botanical Gardens to preserve, for the people of the United States, species of tropical plant life threatened with extinction.

Conservation is one of the National Tropical Botanical Garden's key roles. This role has become even more critical as tropical plant species continue to become extinct at a disturbing rate. As many as one-third of the remaining global plant species are considered at risk of extinction. Since 1976, the National Tropical Botanical Gardens has recognized and worked with urgency to preserve and cultivate native Hawaiian plants, and has made its program of preserving Hawaii's endangered and threatened flora a matter of the highest priority.

The unique flora of 1,300 species that has evolved over millions of years in Hawaii represents a significant resource to the people of the United States in terms of the biodiversity it represents. Further, many of these botanic species serve as the foundation of entire ecosystems, serving as food sources or habitats for other larger species that are either threatened or endangered. These are species that are not represented in any of the other 49 States in our Nation. Each of these species contains unique genes that express themselves in a myriad of ways. Each time we lose a species to extinction we lose an irreplaceable reservoir of unique genes and eliminate their usage as a possible benefit to humanity.

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act incorporates many of the recommendations on the subject issued by the Department of the Interior in 2000. This act would help protect and preserve the nation's important fossil resources that are found on Federal lands for the benefit of our citizens. This provision will still allow the practice of casual collecting that is being enjoyed on Federal lands. While I recognize the educational benefits and the major fossil discoveries made by amateur collectors and curio hunters, fossil theft has become an increasing problem. Vertebrate fossils are rare and important natural resources that have become increasingly endangered due to an increase in the illegal collection of fossil specimens for commercial sale. However, at this time there is no unified policy regarding the treatment of fossils by Federal lands management agencies which would help protect and conserve fossil specimens. We risk the deterioration or loss of these valuable scientific resources. This act will correct that omission by providing uniformity to the patchwork of statutes and regulations that currently exist. It will create a comprehensive national policy for preserving and managing fossils and other artifacts found on Federal lands, and will prevent future illegal trade. I would like to emphasize that this bill covers only paleontological remains on Federal lands and in no way affects archaeological or cultural resources under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 or the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Lastly, I express my support for a provision in the omnibus lands bill that I cosponsored in the 110th Congress, S. 1680, the Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge and Wilderness Enhancement Act. This measure paves the way for a road that would provide dependable and safe year-round access for the residents of King Cove in Alaska to the nearby Cold Bay Airport. I believe that the 800 residents of King Cove, most of whom are Native Aleut, have an absolute right to a means of transport that is accessible under all weather conditions, including gale force winds and fog. This reliable means of getting to the airport will help address many of the community's safety, health, and medical concerns because the Cold Bay Airport is an all-weather airport.

In addition to providing an essential passageway, this provision will authorize a land transfer in which nearly 56,000 acres of pristine land will be classified as wildlife refuge wilderness. In contrast, only about 2,000 acres of Federal land could potentially be exchanged for the purpose of constructing a one-lane gravel road. This measure has been in the making for 10 years. I commend the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for working across the aisle to modify and refine the original language to be acceptable to all parties and stakeholders. Neither